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State of Wisconsin

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Governor Doyle's Cabinet Member, Secretary Gassman, Presents \$10,000 in Grants to Wisconsin Rapids Childcare Agencies

Wisconsin Rapids - Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced \$10,000 in Community Childcare Initiatives (CCI) grants to help childcare providers strengthen relationships with families to prevent child abuse and neglect.

"We need to provide a nurturing and healthy environment for Wisconsin's children. Overwhelming evidence confirms that giving children the best start early in life pays enormous dividends later," said Secretary Gassman. "The centers receiving awards today have shown a strong commitment to ensuring that children have a quality early learning experience and flourish in school."

During the grant presentation at Mid-State Technical College (MSTC) at the "Strengthening Families" reception, Secretary Gassman highlighted the state's "Strengthening Families" initiative, a collaborative between DWD, the Children's Trust Fund, the Child Abuse Prevention Fund, the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, the Child Care Resource and Referral of Wisconsin Network and other local partners, including MSTC.

Eight communities and three counties (Adams, Wood, and Clark) were represented during the ceremony. Each grant recipient received \$1,000 for their programs:

- **Christ Cares for Kids in Marshfield** – The grant will improve the education of the staff and parents by purchasing books and videos for parental training.
- **Rudolph's Little Dears in Rudolph** – The grant will support a parent library and family events with guest speakers.
- **Kidz Korner in Adams** – The grant will provide initial and ongoing education through media and enhanced resources.
- **South Wood County YMCA in Port Edwards** – The grant will support parenting and child care training, materials, books and videos.
- **Child Care Centers of Marshfield** – The grant will support staff training, parent resource materials, and opportunities to gather and share information.
- **Zion Lutheran Daycare in Colby** – The grant will support a parent center with information on parenting and community resources.
- **Indianhead Head Start in Ladysmith** – The grant will fund and support a Parent Resource Room.
- **Wood County Head Start in Wisconsin Rapids** – The grant will support video equipment for parent/staff observations.

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- **ABC Child Care Centers in Marshfield** – The grant will support a reference library to include information about community resources and child development issues.
- **Building Blocks Learning Center in Wisconsin Rapids** – The grant will support a resource room for families.

MSTC administers the Community Childcare Initiatives grants and provides educational and professional development opportunities for childcare providers. Twenty-seven students from the Foundations of Early Childhood class at MSTC were also present at the reception, as well as members of the MSTC board and other childcare staff members.

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